What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #91:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

What a truly busy week. I'm back from Europe but I still sort of feel like I am still there with all the early morning auctions this week. There are so many auctions it is almost difficult to keep up. On a positive note, I was able to get some very nice coins for several of my customers. The next week will see some smaller auctions so perhaps a week to take a deep breath. We'll have several weeks of down time before the big push around the holidays which culminates with the January NY trade show and week of auctions. I'll be looking forward to seeing some of you in San Francisco at the bourse that will take place November 29-December 1. I've gotten a lot of new inventory over the last months so I'll have that there.

Here is what is happening this week:

Savoca 11th Blue Auction (October 27-28)

Savoca has two days of auctions in which they will auction off 2,317 lots. You will see a lot of multiple types at budget prices. It will likely be too late for people to get in touch but if you have time and feel like browsing through the possibilities you may very well find something!

Solidus Premium Auction 35 (October 28)

This auction is a rather refined small group of only 222 coins. There are some very attractive pieces and the estimates are rather low. There are no pedigrees in this auction which makes it a little less appealing for most of my customers but it likely will be a good opportunity for people to get some very nice coins at reasonable prices.

Naumann Auction 71 (November 4)

Naumann is holding their 71st auction with 1,011 lots. As with all Naumann auctions there is a ton of material to choose from and some very nice pieces. Again, pedigrees do not abound in this auction but the people that bid here come looking for interesting pieces and aren't necessarily concerned with lengthy pedigrees that can increase hammer prices substantially.

Naville Auction 44 (November 4)

As if the Naumann auction weren't enough, Naville has their auction as well on the 4th of November. This is a pretty small auction with 657 coins. Naville has had a long run of auctions with material from the extensive Dattari and Clain-Stefanelli collections. This auction includes some as well. I'm not sure if people are getting burnout from Alexandrian coins but the time will pass when the these coins are available so it might make sense to take a peek.

Coin of the Week

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/attica-athens-c-454-404-bc?rq=gk1239

ATTICA, Athens. c. 454-404 BC
AR Drachm, 4.28g (14mm, 6h). Head of Athena right, in crested Attic helmet ornamented with three olive leaves above visor and spiral palmette on bowl, wearing round earring with central boss / Owl standing to right with head facing, olive sprig and crescent behind, ΑΘΕ before; all within incuse square.

Pedigree: Ex Prospero Collection, NY Sale XXVII, 4 January 2012, lot 371

Price: $5,500

Archaeological evidence suggests that Athens has been occupied by humans since before 3000 BC, however, the zenith of its growth occurred during the 6th century BC. Due to the silver mines at Laurium, located about 60 km from Athens, the city was rich in silver. This gave them an advantage that few other Greek city states had: the ability to strike an abundance of coins. And strike they did! Â All over the Greek world tetradrachms of Athens circulated. Some even to the far east reflected a Phoenician appearance and symbolism.

While we see many different styles of tetradrachms, to the point that even a die study of the type is impossible to achieve, we see much less of the smaller denomination in silver. This coin is a drachm which as it suggests is roughly ¼ the size of a tetradrachm. A very interesting type and one that is less visible in the current market.

References: *Svoronos, pl. 13, 27; Kroll 10; SNG Copenhagen 42*

Grade: *Very nice style and with attractive toning. Slightly o/c on the obverse but sharp strike and a rare denomination. Some minor die breaks in the field on obverse. EF*

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If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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